

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) Program

The Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) Program provides biopsychosocial treatment and rehabilitation to homeless veterans. Implemented in 1987 with the passage of Public Laws 100-71 and 100-6, the DCHV program currently operates at 35 VA medical centers across the country, has a total of 1,781 beds and treats approximately 5,000 veterans each year. The mission and goals of the program are to: 1) reduce homelessness; 2) improve the health status, employment performance and access to basic social and material resources among veterans, and; 3) reduce overall use of VA inpatient and domiciliary care services. Basic services provided by the program include:

- 1) outreach to identify under-served veterans among homeless persons encountered in soup kitchens, shelters and other community locations;
- 2) time-limited residential treatment that offers medical and psychiatric services including substance abuse treatment and sobriety maintenance as well as social-vocational rehabilitation, including work-for –pay programs at most sites (VA’s Compensated Work Therapy or Incentive Work Therapy programs) **LINK** www.erols.com/gentacle/manualindex.html and;
- 3) post-discharge community support and aftercare.

Since its inception, the work of the DCHV Program has been evaluated and monitored by VA’s Northeast Program Evaluation Center (NEPEC) at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven campus. The goals of the evaluation are: 1) to provide an ongoing description of the status and needs of homeless veterans; 2) to assure program accountability, and; 3) to identify ways to refine or change the clinical program, nationally and at specific sites. Tracking the ongoing performance of the DCHV Program is accomplished through a data monitoring system that examines the characteristics of veterans admitted to the program and their clinical outcomes at the time of discharge.

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